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Department of State TELEGRAM

48

CONFIDENTIAL 213

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 09168 211045Z

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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03 SC 01 RSC 01 USIA 12 H 02 NSC 10 L 03 INR 07 P 04 CIA 04
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Ivan Izenberg DATE 12/23/81
EXEMPTIONS
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R 210705Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9292
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4641
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1167
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2282

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9168 SECTION 1 OF 2

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: THE CAMPAIGN IN BINH DUONG

REF: SAIGON 7604

1. REFTEL REPORTED NAMES AND BASIC BIODATA ON 25 LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES FROM BINH DUONG.

2. AS OF OCTOBER 18, THE CAMPAIGN WAS BEGINNING TO EXCITE CONSIDERABLE LOCAL INTEREST AND COMMENT. SOURCES

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 9168/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
ESTIMATE THAT NEARLY FIVE THOUSAND VOTERS HAVE HEARD CANDIDATES SPEAK DURING GROUP CAMPAIGN APPEARANCES AND ABOUT FORTY THOUSAND VOTERS, OR ONE IN THREE, ARE

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 09168 211045Z

FAMILIAR WITH CANDIDATES THROUGH POSTERS, LEAFLETS, LOUDSPEAKER TRUCKS, WORD OF MOUTH, OR RADIO. SIX OF TEN SCHEDULED CAMPAIGN MEETINGS HAD BEEN HELD. THREE, IN ISOLATED DISTRICTS, WERE CANCELLED DUE TO NON-AVAILABILITY OF AIRLIFT. MEETING SCHEDULED FOR ARVN 5TH DIVISON HEADQUARTERS WAS CANCELLED, SOURCES SAY, BECAUSE DIVISION CO, GENERAL PHAM QUOC THUAN, REFUSED TO PERMIT IT.

3. A VARIETY OF STYLES ARE EVIDENT IN THE CAMPAIGN. MOST CANDIDATES SEEM TO RELY MORE ON THEIR FRIENDS AND ASOCIATES TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR THEM THAN THEY DO IN PERSONAL APPEARANCES AND CAMPAIGN LITERATURE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF THOSE CANDIDATES AFFILIATED WITH SOME ORGANIZATION OR PARTY, OR WHO ARE LONG-TIME LOCAL RESIDENTS WITH ESTABLISHED REPUTATIONS. AT LEAST TWO CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN LAVISH IN THEIR SPENDING. OTHERS ARE REPORTED TO BE RELYING ON LETTERS OF INTRO-

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 9168/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L

DUCTION FROM INFLUENTIAL SAIGON FIGURES TO PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES. ONE CANDIDATE HAS EXCITED CROWDS WITH A SLASHING, ANTI-AMERICAN ATTACK (SEE PARA 8 BELOW).

4. SOURCES IDENTIFY EIGHT CANDIDATES IN THE LEAD FOR DINH DUONG'S TWO LOWER HOUSE SEATS. THEY ARE:

A. TRAN TAN THONG, BORN 1930 IN PHU CUONG, THE PROVINCE SEAT. THONG IS A SINO-VIETNAMESE, THE SON OF MRS BAY-LINH. MRS LINH IS A WEALTHY BINH DUONG MERCHANT WHO ALSO HAS EXTENSIVE HOLDINGS IN SAIGON, VUNG TAU AND DA LAT. CANDIDATE THONG IS AN ARVN PHARMACIST FIRST LIEUTENANT WITH TWO YEARS SERVICE. IN 1959, AGED TWENTY-NINE, HE WAS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE FROM CU CHI DISTRICT, THEN A PART OF BINH DUONG, ALLEGEDLY AFTER LAVISH EXPENDITURES TO PURCHASE OFFICIAL SANCTION. HE IS RUMORED TO BE SPENDING THREE TO FOUR MILLION PIASTERS ON PRESENT CAMPAIGN. PLATFORM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 09 68 211045Z

PEACE WITH FREEDOM AND HONOR; POPULAR EDUCATION; RESPECT FOR LAW; CONSTRUCTION FO A PROSPEROUS AND EGALITARIAN SOCIETY.

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 9168/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
B. THAI MANH TIEN, BORN 1917 IN HANOI, A LAWYER AND CIVIL SERVANT, WEALTHY AND SAID TO BE CAMPAIGNING WITH THE ENDORSEMENT OF LABOR MINISTER NGUYEN HUU HUNG. TIEN ALSO WAS A DIEM-ERA ASSEMBLY DEPTY, REPRESENTING PHUOC THANH PROVINCE, WHICH WAS ABOLISHED IN 1965, FROM 1959 THROUGH THE 1 NOVEMBER 1963 COUP. ABOUT HALF OF WHAT WAS THEN PHUOC THANH HAS BEEN INCORPORATED IN DINH DUONG AS PHU GIAO DISTRICT, AND TIEN IS EXPECTED TO DO WELL THERE; HE IS REMEMBERED AS A GOOD REPRESENTATIVE OF POPULAR INTERESTS. TIEN IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE TIES WITH THE MICHELIN INTERESTS, OWNERS OF THE ENORMOUS DAU TIENG RUBBER PLANTATION IN NORTHWESTERN BINH DUONG. PLATFORM: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEMOCRACY.

C. NGUYEN NGOC BAU, BORN 1925 IN SA DEC, A PROVINCE COUNCILMAN RUNNING IN CONCERT WITH TA NGOC TUONG (BLOW). BAU, THE ONLY CATHOLIC IN THE BINH DUONG RACE, IS SAID TO AT ONE TIME HAVE BEEN A MONK OR LAY BROTHER, AND SUBSEQUENTLY A CIVIL SERVANT IN BINH DUONG. HE SHOULD WIN VOTES FROM MOST, BUT BY NO MEANS ALL, OF THE PRO-

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 9168/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
VINCE'S SMALL, LARGELY SOUTHERN CATHOLIC MINORITY. PLATFORM: OPPOSE INJUSTICE; STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS; DEVELOP INDUSTRY; BUILD UP AGRICULTURE; BUILD LOW-COST HOUSING FOR THE POOR; DEVELOP EDUCATION; ETC.

D. TA NGOC TUONG, BORN 1929 IN BIEN HOA. TUONG IS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVINCE COUNCIL AND CHAIRMAN OF THE 5,000 MEMBER BINH DUONG CVT TRADE UNION. HE HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE CVT NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND IS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 09168 211045Z

RUNNING IN ALLIANCE WITH NGUYEN NGO BAU (ABOVE). PLATFORM: PEACE IN FREEDOM AND BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF ECONOMIC DEMORACY; ELIMINATION OF CORRUPTION AND INJUSTICE.

E. CAPTAIN HUYNH HUYEN DO, BORN 1933 IN PHNOM PENH. DO, A PROTESTANT, HAS SERVED EIGHT YEARS IN PHU GIAO DISTRICT, BINH DUONG, INCLUDING A TOUR AS DISTRICT CHIEF. HE IS A BACHELOR AND IS SAID TO HAVE A REPUTATION AS ENERGETIC AND CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE. DO IS REPORTED TO BE PARTICULARLY WELL LIKED BY HIS SOLDIERS. PLATFORM: INTERVENE WITH AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE RECEIVE RIGHTFUL COMPENSATION FOR WAR AND DEFOLIATION DAMAGE;

PAGE 6 RUMJIR 9168/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
INTERVENE TO SECURE RELEASE OF PEOPLE IMPRISONED UNJUSTLY.

F. JUDGE PHAM DINH HUNG, BORN 1935 IN BINH DI NG. LAWYER HUNG, THEN CHEF DE CABINET OF MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, WAS LEADING VOTE-GETTER IN PROVINCE CA RACE A YEAR AGO ANDWAS A VALUABLE MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY. A TAN DAI VIET PARTY MEMBER, HUNG RAN FOR SENATE ON TDV LIST 16. PLATFORM: RESTORE PEACE; BUILD A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC NATION; STRIVE FOR AN EGALITARIAN SOCIETY; PROTECT PEOPLES LAWFUL RIGHTS; IMPROVE THE LIFE OF POOR PEOPLE. BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 263

PAGE 01 SAIGON 09168 02 OF 02 211144Z

42
ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04,
DOD 01, SP 02, SS 20, SAH 03, SAL 01, AID 30, IO 21, NSAE 00, RSR 01
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R 210705Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9293
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4642
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1167
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2283

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 9168

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

G. MAJOR NGUYEN HOA PHUNG, BORN 1934 IN SAIGON.
PHUNG IS THE SON OF SOUTHERN VNQDD LEADER NGUYEN HOA
HIEP. HE SERVED AS CHEF DE CABINET OF THE MINISTRY OF
THE INTERIOR WHEN HIS FATHER WAS MINISTER (1964) AND
NOW SERVES ON THE
ARVN JOINT GENERAL STAFF. BINH DUONG
SOUTHERN VNQDD, IT SHOULD BE NOOAOWSJISTMVRUVYI
Ø AILWX
ONQZORFYER PYABQTMSJ
IOPLINCE#VOTE ON 3 SEPTEMBER.
PLATFORM: ASSIST WIDOWS AND ORPHANS; ESTABLISH PROGRES-
SIVE CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM; REFORM SYSTEM OF LAND
TENURE; PROTECT RURAL PEOPLE AND BUILD UP AGRICULTURE;

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Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 09168 02 OF 02 211144Z

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 9168/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L
PROTECT VIETNAMESE POPULAR CULTURAL TRADITIONS.

H. MRS DUONG THI HIEM,
IS IDENTIFIED AS A POSSIBLE
DARK HORSE. MRS HIEM, A WIDOW, WAS ELECTED TO THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL IN 1966#WITH THE LEAST VOTES OF ANY WINNER, SINCE THEN HAS PLAYED A ROLE IN VIRTUALLY EVERY SOCIAL WELFARE VENTURE IN BINH DUONG. SHE FINISHED FIFTH OF SIX IN CA RACE AND IS SCOFFED AT BY PROVINCIAL SOPHISTICATES. NOETHELESS, SOURCES REPORT, SHE IS WIDELY KNOWN AND LIKED BY ORDINARY CITIZENS AND SOLDIERS.

5. SOURCES SAY THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, HAVE REAMINED IMPARTIZW, AND PROVINCES ORGANIZATION OF CAMPAIGN MEETINGS HAS WON PRAISE. THE BIG QUESTION MARK REMAINS THE ATTITUDE OF 5TH DIVISION COMMANDER, GENERAL THUAN. FIFTH DIVISION LOOMS LARGE IN PROVINCIAL POLITICS; THE TWELVE THOUSAND VOTES OF SOLDIERS AND DEPENDENTS ARE A TENTH OF PROVINCIAL TOTAL. THUAN SEEMS AS YET TO HAVE NO FAVORITES; HE IS SAID TO HAVE BRUSHED ASIDE APPEAL FOR SSMOORR
FGMOM FUNTAL#
CAPTAIN BUI OUI LAM, WHO PRESENTED THUAN A LETTER OF

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 9168/2 C O N F I D E N I A L
INTRODUCTION FROM MAJOR GENERAL NGUYEN BAO TRI, THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION. HE IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE REFUSED TO HELP LT TRAN TAN THONG (ABOVE), WITH WHOSE MOTHER THUAN IS SAID TO HAVE FINANCIAL DEALINGS.

6. SOURCES ARE BRUTAL IN THEIR COMMENTS ON LAM, WHOM THEY ALLEGE "KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT POLITICS, CANNOT SPEAK BEFORE CROWDS, CANNOT WRITE A POSTER OR PAMPHLET AND KNOWS NOTHINGABOUT CAMPAIGNING, BUT MUST ASK THE BINH DUONG VIS CHIEF TO SHOW HIM HOW." LAM IS SAID TO BE A PROTEGE OF SUB-MINI

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 09168 02 OF 02 211144Z

YERAKOR#INFORMATION MAI VAN DAI,
WHO IN TURNIS SAID TO BE CONNECTED TO GENERAL NGUYEN
NGOC LOAN, THE POLICE DIRECTOR-GENERAL. IN ADDITION
TO LETTER FROM TRI TO THUAN, HE ARRIVED IN PROVINCE,
SOURCES REPORT, WITH A LETTER FROM DAI TO THE BINH
DUONG VIS CHIEF AND A LETTER FROM LOAN TO THE NATIONAL
POLICE CHIEF. BOTH LETTERS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE CARRIED

INSTRUCTIONSTO SUPPORT LAMS CANDIDACY. LAM IS SAID
TO HAVE OFFENDED VIS VM#
RS
NNEGNV

VECQ#
ARROGANT
MANNER AND WILL NOT GET MUCH AID FROM THEM. POLICE
ARE SAID TO BE DIVIDED, WITH WORKING FOR BINH

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 9168/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L
DUONG POLICEMAN TRAN THAI SON, ALSO A CANDIATE.

7. REGARDING POSSIBLE PARTISAN ROLE OF LOCAL OFFICIALS,
SOURCES COMMENT THAT IN GENERAL MOST OFFICIALS APPEAR
TO BE IMPARTIAL BECAUSE THE PROVINCIAL MACHINERY IS
GOING THROUGH A SHAKEUP IN WAKE OF PRESIDENTIAL/
SENATORIAL ELECTION (TRUONG DINH DZU CARRIED PROVINCE
BY FOUR THOUSAND VOTES) AND THUS OFFICIALS DON'T DARE
ABUSE THEIR AUTHORITY.

IM AT PUBLIC CAMPAIGN MEETINGS, NGUYEN VAN KHAI,
BORN 1935 IN NORTH VIET NAM, HAS ELECTRIFIED THE CROWDS
WITH ELOQUENT, SLASHING ATTACKS ON US POLICY IN VIET
NAM. KHAI, WHO USES THE "RISING SUN" SYMBOL ORIGINALLY POPULARIZED
BY PHAN QUANG DAN, IS AN INSTRUCTORE AT THE PSYCHOLOGI-
CAL OPERATIONS TRAINING CENTER IN SAIGON. HE CRITICIZES,
"THE BUREAUCRATIC ATTITUDE OF SOME AMERICAN ADVISORS,"
AND CLAIMS THAT THE AMERICANS PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO
"MECHANICAL" WAR AND NOT ENOUGH ATTENTION TO POLITICAL
AND GUERRILLA WAR. KHAI BERATES HE UNITED STATES FOR

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 09168 02 OF 02 211144Z

"SUPPORTING A CAPIALIST CLIQUE WHICH BANKRUPTS THE PEOPLE, STEALING ALL THE US AID." "FINALLY," HE SAYS, "WHEN THESE INDIVIDUALS MEET DIFFICULTIES, THEY PACK

PAE 5 RUMJIR 9168/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L
THEIR BAGS AND GO INTO EXILE."

9. ALSO A DELIGHT TO THE CROWDS IS TRAN DINH CHIEM, WHO SOURCES SAY IS UNIVERSALLY MOCKED. CHIEM, BORN 1938 IN NORTH VIET NAM, IS REPORTED TO BE THE OWNER OF A "LUXURIOUS SAIGON BROTHEL," WHICH IS MANAGED BY HIS WIFE, ALSO SAID TO DO BRISK BUSINESS IN BLACK-MARKET GOODS ON THE SIDE.

10. THERE ARE REPORTS HAT CAO PH
RG VAN HAS SPENT
ABOUT TWO MILLION PIASTERS TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, ENLISTED MEN AND A NUMBER OF SINO-VIETNAMESE. LE VAN NHUNG, A TWENTY-EIGHT YEAR OLD ENGINEER, AND HUYNH THANH TAM, A TWENTY-SEVEN YEAR OLD PHLOSOPHY TEACHER, BOTH BORN IN BINH DUONG, ARE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION.
BUNKER

CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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